

Attorney Docket No.: FMCE-P143

In the Claims:

1 (currently amended): A coupling for securing a first element to a second element, the coupling comprising:

an actuation bolt which comprises a longitudinal axis;

a clamping jaw which is mounted on the first element and which comprises a bore having a ~~threaded~~ first part which defines a nut that threadedly engages the actuation bolt and a second part within which the actuation bolt extends; and

torque limitation means positioned between the actuation bolt and the second part of the bore for transmitting the rotational movement of the actuation bolt directly to the clamping jaw to thereby rotate the clamping jaw about the axis;

wherein when an external force acting on the clamping jaw is greater than the force generated against the bore by the torque limitation means, rotation of the actuation bolt will result in translation of the clamping jaw along the axis; and

wherein when the external force acting on the clamping jaw is less than the force generated against the bore by the torque limitation means, rotation of the actuation bolt will rotate the clamping jaw about the axis.

2 (previously amended): A coupling according to claim 1, wherein the torque limitation means comprise at least one spring which is capped by a pusher at each of its longitudinal ends.

3 (currently amended): A coupling according to claim 1, wherein the

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torque limitation means comprises a coating of an abrasive material which is formed on at least one of the actuation bolt, a clamping nut which is secured to the actuation bolt within the second part of the bore, or a portion the second part of the bore ~~that engages the actuation bolt or the clamping nut~~.

4 (currently amended): A coupling according to claim 1, wherein the torque limitation means comprises a material having high frictional properties which is interposed between the second part of the bore and at least one of the actuation bolt or a clamping nut which is secured to the actuation bolt.

5 (currently amended): A coupling according to claim 1, wherein the torque limitation means comprises teeth which are arranged symmetrically on at least one of the actuation bolt or a clamping nut which is secured to the actuation bolt and which mesh with grooves machined in the second part of the bore.

6 (currently amended): A coupling according to claim 1, wherein the torque limitation means comprises a number of balls which are housed in at least one of the actuation bolt or a clamping nut which is secured to the actuation bolt and which are forced into contact with the second part of the bore by at least one spring.

7 (canceled).

8 (previously amended): A coupling according to claim 1, further comprising a rolling bearing which is mounted on the actuation bolt and which functions as a stop for the end of translational travel for the clamping jaw.

9 (previously amended): A coupling according to claim 1, wherein the clamping jaw is guided in translation by a frame which is adapted to be fixed to

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the first element.

10 (previously amended): A coupling according to claim 1, wherein the actuation bolt is driven by a motor through a number of toothed wheels.

11 (previously amended): A coupling according to 10, wherein the motor comprises a hydraulic motor.

12 (previously amended): A coupling according to claim 1, wherein the clamping jaw comprises an L-shaped configuration and the nut is located in the longer branch of the L.

13 (canceled).

14 (currently amended): A coupling according to claim 6, wherein the second part of the bore comprises a number of grooves into which the balls are forced.

15 (currently amended): In combination with a loading arm for transferring a fluid product from a first component to a second component, the improvement comprising a coupling for securing the first component to the second component, the coupling comprising:

an actuation bolt which comprises a longitudinal axis;

a clamping jaw which is mounted on the first component and which comprises a bore having a threaded first part which defines a nut that threadedly engages the actuation bolt and a second part within which the actuation bolt extends; and

torque limitation means positioned between the actuation bolt and the second part of the bore for transmitting the rotational movement of the

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actuation bolt directly to the clamping jaw to thereby rotate the clamping jaw about the axis;

wherein when an external force acting on the clamping jaw is greater than the force generated against the bore by the torque limitation means, rotation of the actuation bolt will result in translation of the clamping jaw along the axis; and

wherein when the external force acting on the clamping jaw is less than the force generated against the bore by the torque limitation means, rotation of the actuation bolt will rotate the clamping jaw about the axis.